



United States Department of State

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
for Educational and Cultural Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20522*

March 2, 2023

Dear Council of Chief State School Officers:

The U.S. Department of State receives inquiries about how U.S. universities and K-12 schools may cooperate with Taiwan to expand Mandarin and English language programs and exchanges. We are writing to address common questions and explain how the United States engages the people on Taiwan to advance our shared goals in education in ways that may benefit your state.

People-to-people engagement with Taiwan through educational and cultural exchanges is a priority for the United States. Taiwan is the seventh largest source of international students in the United States, and Taiwan is an important trading partner and market for U.S. exports. For decades, the Taiwan Relations Act and the three U.S.-China Joint Communiqués have enabled our unofficial relationship with Taiwan to flourish, while simultaneously allowing the United States to maintain a wide-ranging official relationship with the People's Republic of China. The U.S. One China policy encourages commercial, cultural, educational, and other engagement with Taiwan.

Over the past two years, the U.S. Departments of State and Education, along with the Taiwan authorities have supported the U.S.-Taiwan Education Initiative to enhance and expand access to Mandarin and English language instruction in both U.S. and Taiwan institutions, including K-12 schools. Both the U.S. and Taiwan work together to prioritize educational exchanges that support language learning, including Mandarin for Americans and English for Taiwan participants. Generous Taiwan funding has already expanded the opportunities the U.S. government provides for participants on both

sides, including through the NSLI-Y, Critical Language Scholarship, Gilman, and Fulbright programs.

Taiwan is also supporting educators at the K-12 level to teach Mandarin and other subjects in U.S. schools. In addition, our strong cooperation with Taiwan in international education is consistent with the Joint Statement of Principles in Support of International Education issued by Secretary of State Blinken and Secretary of Education Cardona in 2021. Taiwan is both an important U.S. partner and a democratic success story. We hope that you will take advantage of the new opportunities that the U.S.-Taiwan Education Initiative may create for the K-12 students in your state. We encourage you to contact the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) in Washington DC and the American Institute in Taiwan in Taipei, as the organizations charged with furthering our relations, to learn more about their work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ethan Rosenzweig', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ethan Rosenzweig
Deputy Assistant Secretary

